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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/923,931	08/07/2001	Kim R. Smith	163.1471US01	4550

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EXAMINER

DELCOTTO, GREGORY R

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1751

DATE MAILED: 11/06/2003

10

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application N .

09/923,931

Applicant(s)

SMITH ET AL.

Examiner

Gregory R. Del Cotto

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-84 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 44-74 and 79-84 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-43 and 75-78 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☒ Claim(s) 1-84 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 5-9 . 6) ☐ Other:

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-84 are pending.

Election/Restrictions

Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:

- I. Claims 1-43 and 75-78, drawn to a method for cleaning carpet, laundry, and upholstery, classified in class 8, subclass 137.
- II. Claims 44-74 and 79-84 drawn to a solid or agglomerated cleaning composition, classified in class 510, subclass 445.

The inventions are distinct, each from the other because of the following reasons:

Inventions of Group II and Group I are related as product and process of use.

The inventions can be shown to be distinct if either or both of the following can be shown: (1) the process for using the product as claimed can be practiced with another materially different product or (2) the product as claimed can be used in a materially different process of using that product (MPEP § 806.05(h)). In the instant case, the composition of Group I can be used in a materially different process such as in a method of cleaning dishware.

Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art as shown by their different classification, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art because of their recognized divergent subject matter, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

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During a telephone conversation with Mark Skoog on October 29, 2003, a provisional election was made with traverse to prosecute the invention of Group I, claims 1-43 and 75-78. Affirmation of this election must be made by applicant in replying to this Office action. Claims 44-74 and 79-84 are withdrawn from further consideration by the examiner, 37 CFR 1.142(b), as being drawn to a non-elected invention.

Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a request under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(i).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application

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filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) and the Intellectual Property and High Technology Technical Amendments Act of 2002 do not apply when the reference is a U.S. patent resulting directly or indirectly from an international application filed before November 29, 2000. Therefore, the prior art date of the reference is determined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.

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2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

2. Claims 1-43 and 75-78 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US 2003/0109403.

'403 teaches a solid cleaning composition comprising a source of active oxygen agent within a binder complex. The solid is formed by a binding agent that forms the ingredients into a solid. The binding agent is a composition formed by solidification of a mixture of an organic sequestrant, including phosphonate or aminocarboxylic acid or mixtures thereof, an active oxygen compound, and water. The solid composition can be dissolved in an aqueous solution creating an aqueous concentrate of the active oxygen at a useful concentration. See Abstract. These compositions can be used in laundry and textile cleaning and destaining, carpet cleaning and destaining, etc. See column 11, lines 1-30.

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Man et al do not specifically teach a method of cleaning carpet by using a cleaning composition comprising a sequestrant, an active oxygen compound, water, surfactant, and the other requisite components of the composition in the specific proportions as recited by the instant claims.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time the invention was made, to clean carpet using a cleaning composition comprising a sequestrant, an active oxygen compound, water, surfactant, and the other requisite components of the composition in the specific proportions as recited by the instant claims, with a reasonable expectation of success and similar results with respect to other disclosed components, because the broad teachings of Man et al suggest cleaning carpets using cleaning composition comprising a sequestrant, an active oxygen compound, water, and the other requisite components of the composition in the specific proportions as recited by the instant claims.

Claims 1-12, 26-43 and 75-78 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tarara et al (US 6,638,902).

Tarara et al teach a solid enzyme cleaning composition in which the enzyme is stable in the presence of mixtures of carbonate and bicarbonate at alkaline pH, and methods employing this composition. See Abstract. These cleaning compositions are used as laundry and textile cleaning and destaining, carpet cleaning and destaining, etc. See column 7, line 55 to column 8, line 5. Preferred additional ingredients include one or more surfactants such as a nonionic surfactant, chelating agents, etc. See column 7, lines 15-40. Suitable enzyme stabilizing agents include sodium percarbonate, etc. See

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column 17, lines 5-65. Suitable chelating agents include 1-hydroxyethylidene-1, 1-diphosphonic acid, etc. See column 18, lines 15-50. The solid cleaning composition refers to composition in the form of a powder, a flake, a granule, a pellet, a tablet, a brick, etc. See column 3, lines 25-40. The total amount of water present in the solid block detergent is preferably less than about 11 to 12% by weight water based on the total chemical composition. See column 9, lines 1-20. The compositions can be used by diluting and presoaking or spraying. See column 21, line 30 to column 22, line 50.

Tarara et al do not specifically teach a method of cleaning carpet using cleaning composition comprising a sequestrant, an active oxygen compound, water, surfactant, and the other requisite components of the composition in the specific proportions as recited by the instant claims.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time the invention was made, to formulate clean carpet using a cleaning composition comprising a sequestrant, an active oxygen compound, water, surfactant, and the other requisite components of the composition in the specific proportions as recited by the instant claims, with a reasonable expectation of success and similar results with respect to other disclosed components, because the broad teachings of Tarara et al suggest cleaning carpets using a cleaning composition comprising a sequestrant, an active oxygen compound, water, surfactants, and the other requisite components of the composition in the specific proportions as recited by the instant claims.

Claims 1-13, 26-43, and 75-78 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Scialla et al (US 5,905,065).

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Scialla et al teach cleaning compositions suitable for the cleaning of carpets resulting in improved particulate stains and/or greasy/oily stains removal performance. See Abstract. The compositions may be formulated either as solids or liquids. In the case where the compositions may be formulated as solids, they may be applied directly on the carpet to be treated or they may be diluted with an appropriate solvent before use. See column 3, lines 60-69. The compositions may comprise from 0.1 to 15% by weight of bleaching compound such as perborates, percarbonates, etc. see column 9, lines 1-69.

Scialla et al do not specifically teach a method of cleaning carpet using cleaning composition comprising a sequestrant, an active oxygen compound, water, surfactant, and the other requisite components of the composition in the specific proportions as recited by the instant claims.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time the invention was made, to formulate clean carpet using a cleaning composition comprising a sequestrant, an active oxygen compound, water, surfactant, and the other requisite components of the composition in the specific proportions as recited by the instant claims, with a reasonable expectation of success and similar results with respect to other disclosed components, because the broad teachings of Scialla et al suggest cleaning carpets using a cleaning composition comprising a sequestrant, an active oxygen compound, water, surfactants, and the other requisite components of the composition in the specific proportions as recited by the instant claims.

Doubl Patenting

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The nonstatutory double patenting rejection is based on a judicially created doctrine grounded in public policy (a policy reflected in the statute) so as to prevent the unjustified or improper timewise extension of the "right to exclude" granted by a patent and to prevent possible harassment by multiple assignees. See *In re Goodman*, 11 F.3d 1046, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir. 1985); *In re Van Ornum*, 686 F.2d 937, 214 USPQ 761 (CCPA 1982); *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970); and, *In re Thorington*, 418 F.2d 528, 163 USPQ 644 (CCPA 1969).

A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a nonstatutory double patenting ground provided the conflicting application or patent is shown to be commonly owned with this application. See 37 CFR 1.130(b).

Effective January 1, 1994, a registered attorney or agent of record may sign a terminal disclaimer. A terminal disclaimer signed by the assignee must fully comply with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

Claims 1-43 and 75-78 are provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 28-41 of copending Application No. 10/214625. Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because claims 28-41 of 10/214625 encompass the material limitations of the instant claims.

This is a provisional obviousness-type double patenting rejection because the conflicting claims have not in fact been patented.

Conclusion

3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Remaining references cited but not relied upon are considered to be cumulative to or less pertinent than those relied upon or discussed above.


Applicant is reminded that any evidence to be presented in accordance with 37 CFR 1.131 or 1.132 should be submitted before final rejection in order to be considered timely.

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Gregory R. Del Cotto whose telephone number is (703) 308-2519. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon. thru Fri. from 8:30 AM to 6:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Yogendra Gupta can be reached on (703) 308-4708. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0661.


Gregory R. Del Cotto
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1751

GRD
November 2, 2003